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FEATURE ARTICLE

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Allison Macfarlane: Perspectives of the NRC chairman

INTERVIEW BY E. MICHAEL BLAKE

POWER

22

San Onofre-2 restart plan sent to NRC for review. Focus on Finance. Atomic Safety and Licensing Boards hold hearings on Indian Point, Davis-Besse license renewal applications. House bill would limit time frame for submitting license renewal applications. EPRI releases report on severe accident mitigation. NRC changes scrutiny level at four nuclear plants. Maximizing the Assets: A status report on license renewal and power updates. NRC's Office of the Inspector General finds that not all ITAAC audit issues have been resolved. Susquehanna-1 inspected for turbine blade cracking. NRC accepts Exelon's request to withdraw early site permit application for Victoria site. Six reactors scrambled within a 24-day period. ASLB limits discussion of contention in Levy licensing proceeding; other licensing developments.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

38

Risks and benefits of accelerated transfer of spent fuel to dry storage examined. Bingaman's Senate bill is positive but needs work, witnesses say. Waste tanks and basin close, Saltstone facility operations resume at Savannah River Site. DOE sets April as startup date for waste treatment plant at Idaho Site. Entergy sues DOE over spent fuel storage costs.

INTERNATIONAL

46

European Commission releases report on state of post-Fukushima nuclear safety in European Union countries. Areva disqualified from competing for contract for Temelin-3 and -4 in Czech Republic. France's Fessenheim plant to close by end of 2016. Steel beam found to have fallen into spent fuel pool at Fukushima Daiichi-3. Construction of Japan's Ohma nuclear power plant to resume. Public consultation begins for new Sizewell project in United Kingdom. Construction begins on fuel fabrication facility in Ukraine. IAEA reports on nuclear infrastructure development in Belarus.

MEETINGS

52

International Atomic Energy Agency's 56th General Conference: Facing a new set of challenges. IAEA Scientific Forum: Nuclear's contribution to global food security.

SECURITY

58

Y-12 security force's contract terminated. Poland's Maria Research Reactor converted to low-enriched uranium fuel; other NNSA news. Indian Point security guard sues Entergy for \$1.52 billion. House bill calls for Defense Department to secure NNSA sites.



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FUEL

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International Isotopes Fluorine Products receives license for DUF₆ deconversion facility. Another milestone, more funding for USEC's American Centrifuge Plant. PhosEnergy Demonstration Plant extracts uranium from phosphate fertilizer streams.

ISOTOPES & RADIATION

66

NRC regulations leave gap in PCTE/MFP exemption.

INDUSTRY

71

Report says U.S. exporters of nuclear equipment and materials are at a disadvantage. DOE fines Battelle for safety violations at Idaho National Laboratory. Shaw sells stake in Westinghouse to Toshiba; other business developments. DOE awards \$8.77 billion in new and extended contracts. NRC receives notification of four product issues.

EDUCATION, TRAINING & WORKFORCE

75

University-led programs receive over \$13 million in DOE grants. Virginia Commonwealth University to offer Ph.D. in nuclear and mechanical engineering. Thomas Edison State College's nuclear energy engineering technology bachelor's degree program is accredited. South Carolina State University receives \$10 000 from Savannah River Remediation to fund scholarships.

STANDARDS

80

Comments requested on ANSI/ANS standard. NRC issues regulatory guides, other documents.

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